

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 ERDA-05 NSC-05 /068 W
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R 051516Z SEP 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3378

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO CINCLANT

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4828

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC, NPG

SUBJ: NPG - FRG VIEWS ON NPG MINISTERIAL

REF: A. USNATO 4243 (DTG 071840Z AUG 75)

B. STATE 204657 (DTG 272305Z AUG 75)

1. ON SEPTEMBER 3, MISSION OFFICER INFORMED FRG DELEGATION REPRESENTATIVE OF US VIEWS (REF B) CONCERNING GERMAN IDEA OF SETTING ASIDE PART OF NPG MINISTERIAL MEETINGS FOR "FREE DISCUSSION". FRG REP EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR FAVORABLE US REACTIONS. HE INDICATED THAT INTEREST IN THE IDEA OF FREE DISCUSSION EMANATED FROM MOD LEBER. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES HAD IN MIND THE SPECIFIC IDENTIFICATION ON NPG AGENDAS OF A FREE DISCUSSION PERIOD. HE DID NOT TAKE ISSUE, HOWEVER, WITH POSSIBILITY OF WIDE-RANGING DISCUSSIONS FOLLOWING SECDEF'S STRATEGIC BRIEFINGS, WHICH MISSION OFFICER NOTED HAD OCCURRED ON OCCASION AT PAST NPG PMEETING. FRG REP AGREED WITH MISSION OFFICER'S POINT THAT FREE DISCUSSIONS AT NPG MINISTERIALS WOULD BE MORE VALUABLE IF MINISTERS INDICATED IN ADVANCE TOPICS THEY MIGHT WISH TO RAISE.

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2. FRG REP SAID THAT HE HAD RAISED THE IDEA OF FREE DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER NPG DELEGATIONS, AND THAT UK, NORWAY, AND BELGIUM HAD HAD FAVORABLE REACTIONS, AND NETHERLANDS AN "EITHER-OR" ATTITUDE. HE SAID THAT OTHER NPG DELEGATIONS HAD NOT YET PROVIDED

THEIR REACTIONS TO HIM. MISSION OFFICERS ASKED IF FRG MIGHT PROPOSE A FREE DISCUSSION AGENDA ITEM FOR THE HAMBURG NPG MEETING. FRG REP SAID HIS AUTHORITIES DID NOT HAVE IN MIND PROPOSING SUCH AN ITEM FOR THE HAMBURG MEETING. HE SAID, INSTEAD, THAT THEY MIGHT FORMALLY PROPOSE THE IDEA AT HAMBURG, WITH VIEW TOWARD PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE AT SPRING 1976 NPG MEETING IF MINISTERS SUPPORTED IT.

3. COMMENT. WE WILL STAY IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH FRG DELEGATION TO KEEP ABREAST OF FURTHER REACTIONS TO THE FREE DISCUSSIONS IDEA. WE WILL KEEP WASHINGTON INFORMED OF SUCH REACTIONS, AND OF FRG PLANS FOR FORMALLY RAISING THE IDEA IN THE NPG. BRUCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO04828
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197509102/abbrzltx.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. USNATO 4243 (DTG 071840Z AUG 75) B. STATE 204657 (DTG 272305Z AUG 75)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <01 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NPG - FRG VIEWS ON NPG MINISTERIAL
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC, NPG
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO CINCLANT
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
USNMR SHAPE
Type: TE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006